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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/694,530 | 10/27/2003 | Holger Richert | SANZ-251 | 1899 |
| 24972 7590 07/03/2007 FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, LLP 666 FIFTH AVE NEW YORK, NY 10103-3198 | | | EXAMINER BAUER, SCOTT ALLEN | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2836 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 07/03/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

H.B

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|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/694,530 | RICHERT ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Scott Bauer | 2836 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 27 & 28 objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 27 & 28 are identical to claim 26. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

1. Claims 21, 23 & 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bauer et al. (US 6,297,610).

With regard to claim 21, Bauer et al., in Figure 3, discloses a configuration for n consumers (6) of electric energy, of which m consumers are supplied simultaneously with energy, where $m < n$, and whereby a modular energy supply (10) comprising k energy modules is provided, and whereby the sum of the power supplyable by the k energy modules is smaller than the power which would be necessary, if all n consumers simultaneously required electrical power, wherein a control is provided which connects

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as many energy modules to respective one of the m consumers so that this consumer receives the power required by said consumer (column 1 lines 31-49).

With regard to claim 32, Berthaud et al. discloses the configuration of claim 21 wherein all of the energies are of the same power (column 4, lines 48-54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 22, 23, 25 & 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer et al. (US 6,297,610) in view of Sellers (US 5,584,974).

With regard to claim 22, Bauer et al. teaches the configuration as claimed in claim 21.

Bauer et al. does not teach that the consumers are sputter installations, with each cathode of a sputter installation having its own arc management.

Sellers et al., teaches an arc control and switching element protection for a pulsed DC cathode sputtering power supply wherein a power supply provides power to

a sputter installation, with each cathode of a sputter installation having its own arc management (column 4 lines 25-28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bauer et al. with Sellers, by using the system of Bauer et al. to drive a plurality of cathode sputtering installations with arc management as taught by Sellers, for the purpose of providing power to the sputters of Sellers in an economic and cheap manner.

With regard to claim 23, Bauer et al., in Figure 1, discloses the configuration as claimed in claim 21.

Bauer et al. does not teach that the electric energy is realized by DC current.

Sellers, teaches a device powered by electric energy realized by DC current.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bauer et al. with Seller, by using the system of Bauer et al. in a DC system as taught by Sellers, for the purpose of allowing the system to be used in a wide range of applications thus increasing the usefulness of the device.

With regard to claims 25 & 31, Bauer et al. teaches the configuration as claimed in claim 21 and further that the electric energy is realized by DC current.

Bauer et al. does not teach that the electric energy is realized by pulsed DC current or that a pulse generator is assigned to each cathode of a sputter installation.

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Sellers, in Figure 1, teaches that a DC power supply can be converted to a pulse DC current by a pulse generator (18) assigned to a cathode.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bauer et al. with Sellers, by using a pulse DC generator taught by Sellers to convert the DC current of the power supplies of Bauer to pulsed DC current prior to sending the power to the load, for the purpose of allowing the device of Bauer et al. to be used to power various types of loads thus increasing the robustness of the circuit.

3. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer et al. (US 6,297,610) in view of Lau (US 5,444,333).

With regard to Claim 24, Bauer et al. teaches the configuration as claimed in claim 21.

Bauer et al. does not teach that the electric energy is realized by an AC current.

Lau, in Figure 1, teaches a circuit wherein the DC current of a DC power supply (12) is converted to AC current by an inverter (14) prior to being sent to the load (26).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bauer et al. with Lau, by using an inverter taught by Lau to convert the DC current of the power supplies of Bauer to AC current prior to sending the power to the load, for the purpose of allowing the device of

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Bauer et al. to be used to power various types of loads thus increasing the robustness of the circuit.

4. Claims 26-28 are is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer et al. (US 6,297,610) in view of Mahler et al. (US 5,429,705).

With regard to claim 26-28, Bauer et al. teaches the configuration as claimed in claim 21.

Bauer et al. does not teach that each cathode is provided with its own adaptation network.

Mahler et al. teaches an apparatus for coating and/or etching substrates in a vacuum chamber wherein the power input of the device is provided with an adaptation network (column 2 lines 43-49).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bauer et al. with Mahler et al., by using the device of Bauer et al. to power the adaptive network and sputter installation of Mahler et al., for the purpose of for the purpose of allowing the system to be used in a wide range of applications thus increasing the usefulness of the device.

5. Claims 29 & 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer et al. (US 6,297,610) in view of Milde et al. (US 6,420,863).

With regard to Claim 29, Bauer et al. teaches the configuration as claimed in claim 21.

Bauer et al. does not teach that the consumers are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes to which one pole reversal unit is assigned.

Milde et al., in Figure 1A, teaches a method for monitoring an alternating current discharge on a double electrode wherein a power supply (5) is coupled to a switching unit wherein one cathode is coupled to a pole reversal unit.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bauer et al. with Milde et al., by using the power supply device of Bauer et al. to supply power to the sputter installation of Milde et al., for the purpose of allowing the system to be used in a wide range of applications thus increasing the usefulness of the device.

With regard to Claim 30, Bauer et al. teaches the configuration as claimed in claim 21.

Bauer et al. does not teach that the consumer are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes, of which the one cathode is connected to a pole of an AC voltage and the other cathode to the other pole of this AC voltage.

Milde et al., in Figure 1A, teaches a method for monitoring an alternating current discharge on a double electrode wherein the consumer are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes, of which the one cathode is connected to a pole of an AC voltage and the other cathode to the other pole of this AC voltage.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bauer et al. with Milde et al., by using the power supply device of Bauer et al. to supply power to the sputter installation of Milde et al., for the purpose of allowing the system to be used in a wide range of applications thus increasing the usefulness of the device.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

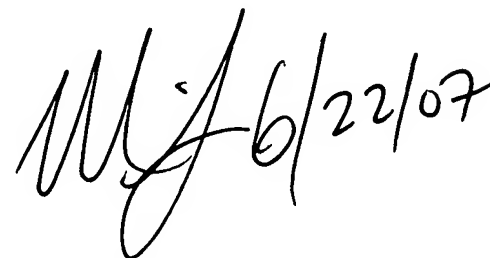
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Bauer whose telephone number is 571-272-5986. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SAB
21 JUN 07

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS' followed by a large flourish, and the date '6/22/07' written to the right.

MICHAEL SHERRY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800